

On Christmas Eve

By MARGHERITA ARLINA HAMM

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The hour is on the stroke of twelve.
And all in silence sleep.
Save those who in the darkness dwell
Or, waked by sorrow, weep.
In countless homes a love untold
Is making souls elate.
And building up the young and old
Unto a nobler state.

For Santa Claus is more than myth,
Of childish dreams a part—
He is a living wondersmith
Within each loving heart.
He is the spirit of our race,
The genius of all life.
Which aims to broaden kindly grace
And end all sin and strife.

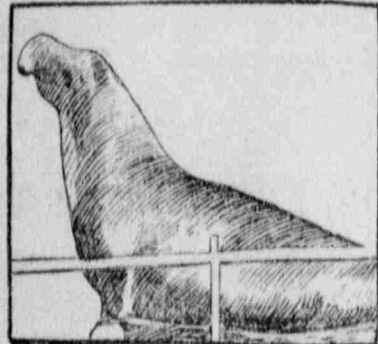
The mother at the Christmas tree,
The child who shares his mite.
The workers in the slums who free
The dwellers of the night.
The men who consecrate their days
To philanthropic aims,
Are all of Santa Claus a phase
Beneath a myriad names.

Although we light the Christmas tree
But one night in the year,
Through days that are and are to be
Its radiance blazes clear.
Although on Christmas eve alone
The saint is ever seen,
Yet every day where love is shown
I recognize his mien.

A happy symbol is the saint
Of that overwhelming force
Which moves this world of pain and plaint
Upon its upward course.
Though Christmas eve must change to dawn
And other days arise,
Yet love from life is never gone
And Christmas never dies.

THE RARE ELEPHANT SEAL.

In the accompanying illustration is shown one of the rare elephant seals in captivity. A native of the antarctic, it has hitherto been hard to find and still harder to capture, but it is hoped that at least one of the several expeditions to the Antarctic ocean will on its return bring complete information of its



habits and habitat. The elephant seal is distinguished from all others of its family not only by its great size, some specimens having been seen twenty feet in length, but by its curious nasal protuberance, from which is derived its Latin generic name of *macrorhinus*. Ordinarily large, this protuberance can be dilated at will by the seal until it somewhat resembles the trunk of a small elephant. This seal is found also in Lake Baikal, Russian Siberia, as well as in the antarctic, and the question the naturalists are trying to decide is, How did it get there?

TWO LADIES PROMINENT IN TEMPERANCE WORK.



The two ladies whose portraits are presented in the accompanying illustration, Mrs. Bertrand Russell and Lady Henry Somerset, have come into prominence lately with a project for bringing home the temperance question to the people. Mrs. Russell is less known than her conductor, Lady Somerset, whose connection with temperance schemes has made her famous the world over, but she is an eloquent advocate of social reform and proposes the founding of a Lady Henry Somerset lectureship in connection with the London university. She is the wife of Hon. Bertrand A. W. Russell, heir presumptive of the second Earl Russell, and daughter of R. Pearsall Smith of Philadelphia, her mother being a veteran worker in the temperance cause.

AN AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE HELD IN THE BRANCHES OF A TREE.



A traveler just returned from the Blue Nile region narrates as one of the most curious of his experiences coming across an African justice of the peace holding his court up a tree, as shown in the accompanying illustration. It at first struck him as very ludicrous, but when he came to examine into the case he found that the old negro who acted as "judge, jury and executioner" was not far wrong, after all, for by elevating his court to the leafy branches of the tree he gained a view of the fighting crowd of litigants, although he became a conspicuous target for the stones and sticks cast by disappointed contestants.

A WITTY JUDGE.

The new judge of England's high court of justice, Mr. Jelf, whose portrait appears herewith, says a friend, "is truly terrible in debate and would be backed by the bar to find a flaw in anything, even a lawcourt's pun," but he is also accused of possessing a keen and satirical wit in which he indulges even on the bench. For example, there was brought before him a weeping prisoner who thought to impress him with his tears. "Have you ever been in prison, my man?" asked the judge, with a show of interest. "Never, my lord: never, never!" believed the prisoner. "Well, then, don't cry," rejoined Mr. Justice Jelf. "I'm going to send you there right now." And he sent him up.

The Koreans as a people are better developed physically than the Japanese and are mentally liberally endowed.

PICKED UP IN PASSING.

The courthouse in Williamsburg, Va., where Patrick Henry made his famous speech on the stamp act is still in existence. It is used for judicial purposes, and every Saturday morning petty offenders are tried there.

AUSTRALIA'S GIANT MARSUPIAL.



Australia, the home of animal oddities, now comes to the front with a claim to possess the remains of the giant among marsupials, recently discovered in the bed of a dried up lake. It is called the diprotodon and is now extinct, but its bones have been found in large quantities, as at one time were those of the emu. This illustration is from a "restored" specimen in the British museum.

lessness. Official statistics for the last year just published show a decrease of 10.2 per cent in minor offenses as compared with the preceding year. There are 155,000 Britons living in the United Kingdom at present who were born in the colonies.

PRINCE ROLAND BONAPARTE.

There has been a great deal of misplaced sympathy for the Bonapartes, who one and all have done well peculiarly, no matter what has been their fortune politically. Now, there is Prince Roland Bonaparte, whose portrait appears herewith, a grandson of Lucien, the great Napoleon's brother. He was seven



years building a magnificent palace in Paris, which is one of the wonders of that city. To his credit, be it said, he is of studious habit and possesses great erudition, so his palace is also the workshop of a litterateur, his library being one of the finest in Europe. He has traveled all over the world, including, of course, the United States, is an ethnologist as well as a bibliophile and a devoted Napoleonomaniac, possessing many fine portraits and busts of his great-granduncle, including the famous bust by Canova. He is forty-three years of age, a widower, with one charming daughter, the mistress of his mansion, and a devoted student of history and geography, being at the present time engaged upon a standard work on both.

KING EDWARD'S ROYAL BARGE.

The sovereign of England's barge of state, which is shown in the accompanying illustration, lies securely anchored in a quiet eddy of the Thames, ready at any time for service. It is a very elaborate affair, with ornate gilt carvings at bow and stern, and seats for sixteen oarsmen. When in use, it is



decorated with gorgeous banners. The "chief of the king's boatmen" is a nobleman of high degree, who commands the aquatic flunkies and assists his royal highness into and out of the barge. His office, however, is in the nature of a sinecure, like most positions about the royal person.

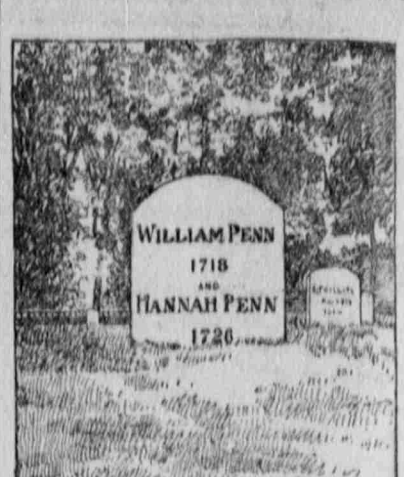
MAKOFFSKY, THE ARTIST WHO WILL PAINT THE PORTRAIT OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.



With an American, E. A. Abbey, commissioned to paint King Edward's coronation scene and Makoffsky, a famous Russian court painter, engaged on a portrait of President Roosevelt, it would seem indeed that an international era of good will had been inaugurated, presaging an artistic millennium. Constantine Makoffsky recently came to this country under commission to paint a portrait of the Countess Cassini, wife of the Russian ambassador at Washington. He is a son of Yegor Ivanovitch Makoffsky, whose art collection is one of the finest in Europe. His two brothers, Nicholas and Vladimir, have also achieved fame as artists, and the works of Constantine, "The Death of the Czar," "A Russian Wedding Feast," "Portrait of a Russian Prince," "Choosing the Bride," "Judgment of Paris," etc., have attracted worldwide attention. He is noted for his vigorous and effective handling of a subject and particularly for the fresh and attractive coloring of his portraits. M. Makoffsky visited this country three years ago, on which occasion several of his paintings were on view, and he received then, as he and his wife are receiving now, many attentions from society.

WILLIAM PENN'S TOMBSTONE.

The place of William Penn's interment has frequently been a matter of dispute, but the accompanying illustration, from a recent photograph, tells the subject at rest. It was taken in the Penn burial ground at Jordans, near Chalfont, St. Giles, England, where there is a Quaker meeting house at which semiannual services only are



held and where many hero worshippers come to look upon this memorial to the great "savior of the new sect," as the redoubtable Quaker was called. His greatest memorial, of course, is on this side the water, in the mighty commonwealth he was instrumental in founding, and at one time a watch was set over his grave for fear his remains might be disinterred and taken to America.

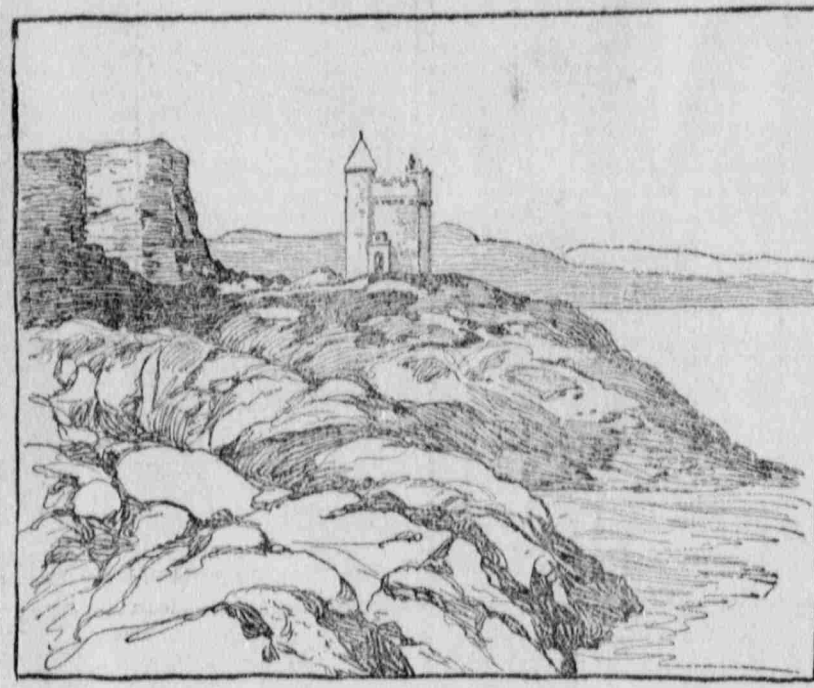
HON. CHARLES PARSONS.

To Hon. Charles Algernon Parsons, whose portrait appears herewith, is due the recent progress toward perfection of the turbine engine for the propulsion of merchant and war vessels. To him also are due the torpedo boat destroyers which, of extraordinarily high speed, have developed structural weaknesses sufficient to nullify their wonderful performances. The *Tiger*, the fastest vessel in the British navy, was wrecked on a reef; the *Cobra* sank and carried down most of her crew on a trial trip, and their successor, the *Crane*, had to return to port recently owing to the buckling of her beams amidships. It is hoped, however, that Mr. Parsons' great engineering ability will eventually overcome all difficulties and that the steam turbine for ocean vessels will prove a success.



Mr. Parsons is forty-seven years old, married, wealthy and an indefatigable worker.

MEMORIAL BEACON TO A NOVELIST.



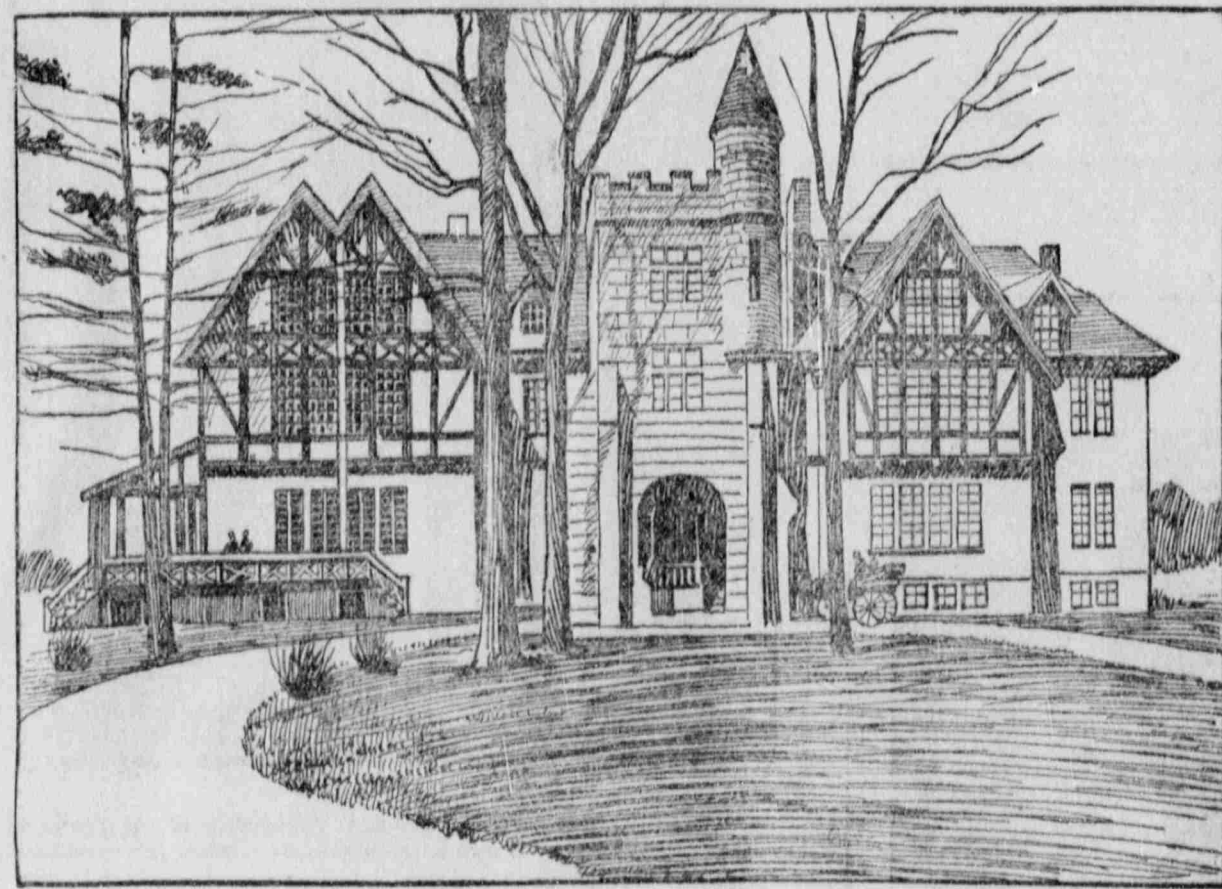
In the accompanying illustration is shown the grand memorial beacon recently erected as a monument to the late William Black, the novelist, who died in December, 1898. It stands in solitary grandeur on the rugged and picturesque isle of Mull, Scotland, with the highlands of which some of Black's best novels are identified. A native of Scotland, William Black loved to delineate her beautiful scenery, sturdy men and noble women, and in some of them, as in his "Princess of Thule," he has immortalized certain characters and scenes in print almost as surely as the permanent memorial erected in his honor connects him with his native land.

IMAGINARY ARBOREAL LIKENESS OF THE LATE QUEEN VICTORIA.



The admirable likeness of the late Queen Victoria to be detected in the tree shown in the accompanying illustration may owe something of its accuracy to the artist who drew it for the rare old print in which it was found, but the authorities say it may be accepted as authentic. Another historical likeness that occurs to mind in this connection is the famous profile of Bonaparte which was said to have existed in the weeping willow above his grave at St. Helena.

MAGNIFICENT COUNTRY HOME FOR ACTORS AT CASTLETON, STATEN ISLAND.



In the accompanying illustration is shown the magnificent structure now nearing completion at Castleton, Staten Island, to be occupied as a home by retired actors. This is to be the most complete institution of its kind in the world. It is only eighteen months since a subscription was started by the Actors' Fund of America with a donation of \$10,000 by Al Hayman. Within a few weeks the sum of \$71,000 was raised, a beautiful estate was purchased, and the building is approaching completion. Landscape gardeners and architects have used their utmost endeavors to produce a perfect and harmonious scheme for an ideal retreat, the natural beauties of an already beautiful location having been enhanced and the structure itself planned on original and comprehensive lines. Exteriorly the home is most attractive, and interiorly is as near perfection as possible, every aesthetic taste and material want having been anticipated. The home will accommodate more than fifty persons. The style of architecture is the old "half timber Gothic," so suitable to the environment of such a structure. The estate upon which the home is situated comprises fourteen acres and lies near West Brighton, Staten Island. There was a fine old mansion on the grounds, but this was torn down to make way for the present structure, which, it is hoped, will be ready for dedication some time during the early spring.

NEW GERMAN MITRAILLEUSE.

The excitement over the so called new mitrailleuse, shown in the accompanying illustration and used so effectively in the recent maneuvers in Germany, has subsided now that it is found to be nothing more than a modified Maxim, the type of which has been in use in this country for a long time. One advantage claimed for this mitrailleuse



is its extreme portability, two men being able to transport it from place to place. A company is to be formed for the exclusive handling of this gun, consisting of about fifty men and officers, forty horses and four guns, with munition, wagons, etc. Great things are expected of this company, but such bodies have already been formed in the British, Russian and American armies and are no new feature of warfare.

THE PRESIDENTIAL "A."

With the exception of John Tyler, President Roosevelt is the only occupant of the White House in whose name the letter "a" does not appear. Not only has that letter appeared in the names of all previous presidents, but also in the names of nearly every one of the sixty-one Americans who have received votes for president in the electoral college down to William J. Bryan.

In five minutes the bottle was drained, and the committee decided that the beverage was excellent.

Hungarian vineyard owners are rejoiced at the routing of the phylloxera, and they expect soon to be shipping their fiery wines to all parts of the world.

A venerable lady eighty-one years old living in New Bedford, Mass., was asked not long ago if she could go over to

It is said that coarse butcher knives and hunting knives were made by blacksmiths, and the better quality of cutlery was imported from England.

Some of the prettiest women in the world are those of Persia. The regular life they lead is the chief cause of their beauty. They seldom sit up late, they drink no wine and they rarely expose themselves to the atmosphere. It must be acknowledged that their life is

more conducive to health than to pleasure, and it is usually devoid of excitement.

The aggregate length of the world's submarine cables is 157,353,172 nautical miles.

While tearing down an old courthouse in Trenton, N. J., a bottle of brandy 113 years old was found secreted in the wall. A committee of freeholders decided to sample it to see if it was

a neighbor's to tea. "Wait a moment," she replied, "and I will ask mother."

Which she did, her own mother still being the competent head of the household.

Nebuchadnezzar's throne room, 60 by 170 feet, has been discovered in Babylon. In consequence of the enormous production of coffee in Brazil the quantity raised in India was in 1900 only about one-half of what it had been in 1890.